

**Response**

Applicant: Robert L. Battey et al.

Serial No.: 09/812,158

Filed: March 19, 2001

Docket No.: 10961158-6

Title: ELECTRICAL AND FLUIDIC INTERFACE FOR AN INK SUPPLY

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**REMARKS**

This Response replies to the Non-Final Office Action mailed December 8, 2003, in which claims 20 and 22-30 are allowed, claims 16 and 17 are rejected, and claims 18 and 19 are objected to. With this Response, claims no are amended. Claims 16-20 and 22-30 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cowger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,388). Cowger et al. has a filing date of January 21, 1997.

The above-identified patent application is a Continuation of application serial no. 08/791,290, filed on January 30, 1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,203,147), which is a Continuation-in-Part of application serial no. 08/584,499, filed on January 8, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,699,091), which is a Continuation-in-Part of application serial no. 08/363,188, filed on December 22, 1994 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,491,540).

The subject matter of claims 16 and 17 is disclosed at least as early as the January 8, 1996 filing date of parent U.S. Patent No. 5,699,091 ("the '091 Patent"). Accordingly, the effective filing date of the subject matter of claims 16 and 17 is at least as early as January 8, 1996.

The '091 Patent discloses in Figures 4, 4A and 5 a replaceable ink container for use in an off axis printing system, the printing system being responsive to electrical signals produced by the replaceable ink container for controlling printing system parameters (see column 6, lines 48-55), the replaceable ink container having a leading edge defined as that edge of the replaceable ink container first received by the printing system, the replaceable ink container comprising: a plurality of electrical contacts (contact lands 72) on a first half of the leading edge at a first side of the leading edge, the plurality of electrical contacts configured for engaging a plurality of corresponding electrical printer contacts of the printing system (electrical interconnect 70); a fluid outlet (fluid interconnect 64) on a second half of the leading edge at a second side of the leading edge that is directly opposite to the first side such

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that the fluid outlet is separated from the plurality of electrical contacts, the fluid outlet being in fluid communication with the replaceable ink container and configured for engaging a fluid inlet of the printing system (see column 6, lines 6-24); and an information storage device (microprocessor 86) electrically connected to the plurality of electrical contacts. The leading edge defines a longitudinal axis with the first side and the second side being disposed on the longitudinal axis.

The January 21, 1997, filing date of Cowger et al. is after the January 8, 1996, effective filing date of claims 16 and 17 in the above-identified patent application. In view of the above, Applicant submits that Cowger et al. does not qualify as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejections of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 16 and 17 be allowed.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, independent claim 16, from which claims 18 and 19 depend, is believed in allowable condition. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully decline to rewrite claims 18 and 19 at this time.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

In light of the above, Applicant believes all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

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**CONCLUSION**

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Matthew B. McNutt at Telephone No. (512) 231-0531, Facsimile No. (512) 231-0540, or Dmitry Milikovsky at Telephone No. (858) 655-3251, Facsimile No. (858) 655-5859. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

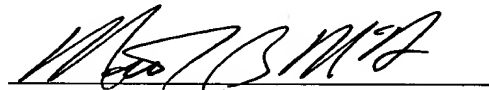
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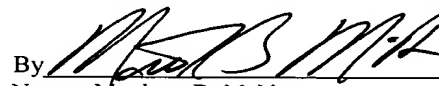
MBM:dmd



Matthew B. McNutt

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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 27th day of February, 2004.

By 

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